

March,
2022

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Prometheus Press

Green Committee
Why is GCC #1?
Sexism on the Bus

In light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we at Prometheus Press want to acknowledge the enormous courage of the journalists and activists willing to put themselves in harm's way to share vital, accurate information about the war. We are humbled by their expertise and devotion to disseminating reliable international coverage.

This said, we have chosen to remain within our scope of competence in this issue, as well as to remain true to our commitment to highlight issues specific to the GCC community. We are committed to fostering a space that honors truth, justice, and accountability. We stand in solidarity with all impacted by the realities of war and the suppression of truth.



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A Hunt To Remember

By Rob (Cowboy) Calafell

For Dad

Prometheus Press staff and their Opinions on Mayo

Rob (Cowboy) Calafell, editor
: I eat mayo out of the jar

Madeline Weinstein,
journalist : I don't like it

Stacy Blackadar, journalist :
I am a mayonnaise enthusiast

Rebecca Mokey, aspiring
journalist : Mayo is crucial

Elaina Gibb-Buursma,
journalist : Sponsored by
Hellman's

Mariah Willor, content
coordinator : DISGUSTING.
absolutely horrendous.

Zachary Poulin, founder +
layout coordinator : I bathe in
the white sauce

Samantha Wood, advisor : I
use mayo but only with hot
sauce in it

It was a cold fall morning when my dad opened the case and handed me my shotgun. I had been waiting for this moment for almost a year, and as a 13-year-old boy a year is a lifetime. All the training in near sub-zero temperatures early in the year, and all through the unbearable sweltering heat during the summer, and all the pain from the recoil that I had now become immune to. It had all led up to this moment. Here in the woods with my dad, our guide, the dogs and our shotguns. It was time for the hunt.

With a stomach full of blueberry pancakes and hot chocolate, we began our hike to the field where the pheasants were released the day before. Like I said, it was cold. The frost still sparkled like crystal in the early dawn light. But soon enough, the sun started to peak over the tips of the tall pine trees, casting its bright rays of light over the sky. We hadn't even gotten to the field yet. In fact, we were still walking on the trail through the woods, when the dog stopped dead in his tracks and pointed with his nose to a thick pile of brambles. Immediately the three of us fell silent. With a quick gesture my dad told me I was up. I was nervous, but I had my wits about me and I was able to change that nervousness into stone cold concentration.

The guide walks over to the pheasant. He gives me a nod. I take the safety off my shotgun.

Then, in a heartbeat, the bird is flushed.

All this year's worth of training comes to me at light speed. The bird takes to the sky, but is brought down just as quickly by the power of gunpowder and buckshot. With a low sounding "thud" I hear the bird hit the ground. It is over. The dog brings over the dead pheasant to me with great enthusiasm. I look at the pheasant, feeling very proud of myself and impressed that I was able to successfully pull off that first shot. Our guide started clapping and congratulating me, but I was more anxious to know what my dad was thinking. I looked over to him and I saw a big ear to ear smile. He gave me a rare pat on the shoulder and said simply "good job Robby." I smiled with him because I knew he was proud of me. And I couldn't have been happier.

Now that I look back at this major accomplishment I see that the main underlying message in this story is pride. There was pride from my dad at seeing that all the work we put into this adventure and having it pay off and pride in myself for my accomplishment.

When I think to myself about this paper, this wonderful paper that has united so many people, I feel as though these same feelings of pride that I had forgotten and left in those hunting fields many years ago come back to me whenever I think about this paper. I can't help but feel proud like my dad was of me on that day. Proud of our paper, proud of the content and most importantly, proud of all the people that make this paper possible.

Sexism on the Bus



By Madeline
Weinstein

Sexism on the bus has more to do with societal microaggressions that we deal with every day. Sexism can also be seen as a microaggression according to your own sexual orientation and or gender.

This says something about society, and people who wait for the bus come from a variety of different backgrounds. What people notice about each other who are waiting for the bus is your skin tone or sex. There are many subordinate and dominant groups of people, and they are all waiting for the bus, that often interact with each other. What people see is their dominant traits. For example, people only see that I am white and not as Jewish.

Someone recently asked me if I was Polish or Irish, I presume this happened because I am white and in a dominant group. My religion and ethnicity intersect with my identity because I identify strongly with being Jewish.

What if I told him I was Jewish? Would I be discriminated against? Would I feel that there is nothing I can do about it? It's not like I can change my identity as being a woman and being Jewish. Some of my identities are like being a woman because there are struggles in ways that you could be perceived that have nothing to do with who you are as a person. My fourth identity is being white, as it is within the most dominant groups in America, as insignificant as it feels. This article is about the social hierarchy in my personal experience. I was on the bus. This man also said earlier before I got on the bus said: "Hello Ma'am", and then later asked if I wanted a cigarette. I felt angry at society and uncomfortable and had a fight or flight response.

First of all, no way do I want a cigarette. Secondly, it is often men that approach me and try to talk. This is more than a stereotypical thing that one gender (men) is different from another. This has to do with societal roles and how a woman is perceived no matter the situation.

I said, "No thanks."

This happens more than not when I stand and wait for the bus for at least half an hour. I have been trying my best to avoid any of these circumstances but sometimes it is unavoidable.

Here is a real-life example that happened to me:

"I will not go on the bus unless you go on first," a man said.

"Why?" I asked

"Because I will not go in front of a girl"

I walked in front of him to get on the bus.

This is the subtle sexism on the bus. What if I did not identify as a "girl"? Yes, I do identify as a woman so that would not be my own complaint.

One is to get a systematic cultural perspective on sexism. Two is to understand the psychological perspective as well.






Microaggressions could be when someone does something that makes someone feel uncomfortable even if unintentional.

I have noticed an older man that asked, "do you want a cigarette?" My answer is always the same, "No thanks." Why do these cultural differences or norms exist? I have my own cultural bias and opinion. My own opinion is that because of my appearance, as a white feminine person, there are still those old cultural norms that were there since before the 1950s. I now try to stay as little time at the bus station as possible because I do not want to deal with sexism at the bus station.






Sexism on the Bus (cont.)

Some questions to ask yourself on the bus or about society in general:

-  Have you ever experienced this?
-  Do you feel your gender, race, ethnicity, and/or your background impacts your appearance on the bus or uncomfortable on the bus for those reasons?
-  How receptive can the bus driver be to ask for help? Do you feel uncomfortable when strangers on the bus talk and approach you?
-  Do you think it is societal? If so, why?
-  What would you give the advice to say if a student told you that someone "got hit on" (meaning a stranger asked you out or if you are "taken") during an interaction on the bus? What would the safest option be?

Some questions you might ask:

-  Why do older people often feel comfortable asking a person who looks much younger than them if they want a cigarette?
-  Is this a cultural or seemingly polite thing for telling a female "I will not go on the bus unless you go on first"? Or both? Does this go with the expression "ladies first?"
-  Where did the expression ladies first come from? Why do people use this expression on the bus in particular?

The Green Committee

By Elaina
Gibb-Buursma

Climate change can be an overwhelming topic to hear about. It often feels like it is reported on constantly, yet positive climate news seems minimal. Phrases like "COP 26" and "Climate Emergency" sound so disastrous, but it can be difficult to understand where we as individuals and small communities can make a difference.

GCC has a Green Campus Committee. It is currently on hold, with a lack of funding from the past president, Covid-19, and various governance changes postponing it since 2019, but their goals are admirable and attainable.

In 2004, Montserrat Archbald, recipient of the Western Mass Outstanding Recycler of the Year award and staff member in Peer Tutoring, started the Recycling Committee.

A few years later it became the Green Committee. She was Chair until 2014 when English professor and past Chair of the Committee, Trevor Kearns took over. Archbald explains that in the past the committee was "an ad hoc advisory committee without decision-making power." Without decision-making power, the committee needed the full support of the President and the Director of Facilities.

The president at the time, Yves Salmon-Fernández, was not fully supportive of their work. Kearns says that "She did not seem to want to prioritize environmental sustainability at the College overall." Archbald expressed a similar view, saying "She attended one meeting early in her short time here, and she didn't listen to us, take any notes, or express support for any of our ideas. Soon after that, she eliminated the stipend that compensated the committee chair."

The big item at their last meeting in 2019 was a cost analysis for a composting program and an attempt to compost kitchen and post-consumer waste. When asked if this goal was achieved, Archbald responded that "The Green Campus Committee strongly supported and doggedly pushed for composting," but it could not happen without the full support of the president and director of facilities. She added that although "over the years there has been a great deal of discussion about systematizing composting here on campus or contracting with the compost co-op run out of the Franklin County jail, it has come to naught." Kearns confirms this, saying that he "presented the plan to the Director of Facilities, who said he'd put it in as a budget request (a \$1500 line item for the whole year, handled by a local composting company), and that was the last I heard of it. It didn't happen."

OUR CORE VALUES

Inclusion
Transparency
Creativity

Integrity
Innovation
Sustainability

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, composting “significantly reduced” methane, “enhances water retention in soils”, and “provides carbon sequestration”. Fertile topsoil is necessary for food nutrition as well. By throwing food away, we are removing it from its natural role in the ecosystem. Researching the GCC website for the school’s emissions would show you that 2008 was the last year that CO₂ emissions were recorded. In 2008, GCC’s “estimate of annual carbon dioxide emissions” was 2,282 tons per year. Carbon neutral is possibly another climate change phrase that is used frequently.

Countries like Denmark have taken amazing steps towards carbon neutrality, and schools such as Middlebury College, Colgate University, and numerous colleges in Maine have achieved it. We, as a college, need to urge those representing us to act with more vigor and take further steps to mitigate our carbon footprint. The GCC Director of Facilities Jeffrey Marques says that food waste from prep in the kitchens has at times been composted, but the food left over from students and staff is thrown in the trash. This is due in part to the consumer-based section of the composting system being paused when school was online. However, before lockdown, Marques said that issues arose from people’s lack of regard for putting food in the correct bins, leading to kitchen staff having to sort the food out or declare it a loss if the food and trash were too intermixed. Anthony Reiber, professor of plant and soil sciences, and several-year member of the Green Campus Committee, added that the “logistics of collecting it [compost] and moving it to a composting site are very limiting at this time with few students on campus.” This is also an “extra cost for the college” to pay an off-campus facility to compost our food

scraps.

Bureaucracy poses difficulties that makes us think that we have to take small steps towards climate change, but the Earth is not waiting for companies and countries to catch up. We need action, whether it is big or small, and composting can be one of GCC’s steps towards a greener future. Archbald says she “would also like to see students start a green club and the administration hire a Sustainability Coordinator.” When asked if he believes that a compost digester would be beneficial to the school, Reiber said “if we could compost on-site it would be beneficial in multiple ways. First, we could limit the cost of trash disposal by lowering the weight and volume” and secondly “generate compost that we use every year on our garden beds.” He added that the issue with the compost digester would be “a disconnect with the placement of the unit and how we would move the food scraps from point A to B.”

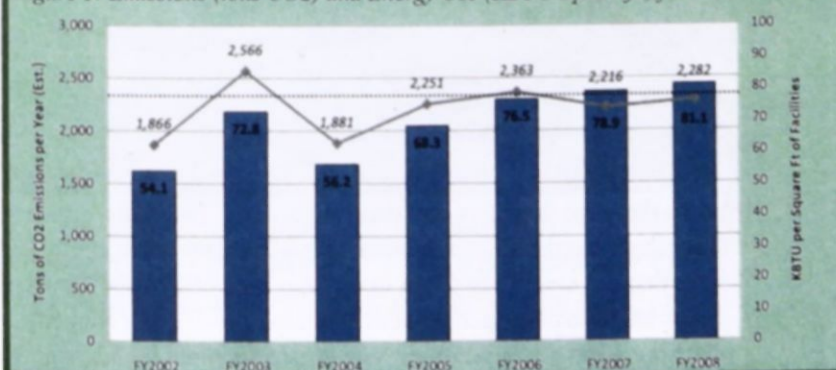
These machines range from two to five hundred dollars and have three-year warranties. With the recent rise of food and gas prices this would be an investment in composting that can be used to grow food on-site.

If you look back to the early 2010’s, you will see glowing reviews of GCC’s steps towards green goals and energy efficiency. The school won the National Green Genome award for excellence in “in four key areas critical to holistic green college transformation” in 2014 as well as Archbald receiving the Western Mass Outstanding Recycling of the Year Award in 2010.

These changes promoted environmental change and school pride, but what would those reviews say now? What actions has the college and we as students taken to demonstrate our commitment towards a healthy Earth?

Reiber described our situation well when he said “We are in the middle of a global climate crisis and we as a state institution should be responsible for educating our students about sustainability and act with these same intentions on our campus. Sustainability is one of the six Core Values listed in GCC Mission and we should act in that manner.” Come Earth Day, let us have already started to take those actions that are best for the Earth.

Figure 1: Emissions (tons CO₂) and Energy Use (KBTU/square ft.) for GCC Facilities



Why is GCC #1?

By Stacy Blackadar

When returning to school for a spring semester, many students were greeted with a new LED sign proudly displaying Greenfield Community College as the number one community college in Massachusetts. This raised many questions as to why Greenfield was chosen number one, by whom, and how we can make it even better.

The website that determines college rankings is Niche, a private college ranking service. Niche claims to work through data and college reviews. Prometheus Press reached out to Niche to further explain their process and they did not respond. Their criteria for community colleges includes a letter grade ranking on professors, diversity, value, safety, student life, and location. Currently GCC has a "B-" in value, a "B" in professors, diversity, and location, a "B+" in student life, and a "A-" in safety. With those rankings, GCC doesn't break the top 100 community colleges in the US. The top community colleges, however, are technical schools throughout the country with 100% acceptance rates. They offer large campuses, city locations, dorms, and a multitude of programs. GCC serves a different purpose than these larger tech schools, so unless that criteria changes, focusing on being the best public institution for this community seems to be the most attainable goal. The three lowest scores reflect....

B Location, not much changing there.



B Diversity, on the other hand, is a focus GCC has when considering improving. When interviewed about this topic, interim President Richard "Rick" Hopper shared some insight on the process. Currently GCC has resources aimed at different student body populations and is in the process of hiring the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This position would report to the President directly. The hiring process has proven difficult because this position is relatively new in higher education. GCC has goals to increase students of color, while also increasing non-white faculty and administration. Our region is about 8% non-white and our student population is 24% non-white but diversity goes beyond numbers and percents. Hopper believes GCC is focused on recruitment, retention, meaningful progress on degrees, getting students of color transferred to four year schools and getting them quality jobs in the community. That location score also impacts diversity. Community colleges by design can be harder to access for different populations. Hopper suggested solutions addressing the lack of moving fee coverage for new staff, lack of mobility in the region without a car, and lack of resident halls for students from other areas all impact GCC's ability to be accessible to people from a variety of backgrounds. However, GCC is working to make itself an inclusive space. We need to continue that work, and make sure GCC is accessible and welcoming to all.

A- The highest ranking is *campus security*. Going to a safe school is important and can be measured in many ways, such as car break ins, harassment cases, and COVID-19 transmission. Dan Nietzsche, Interim Head of Campus Safety confirmed that while there were a few COVID-19 cases on campus, there is evidence that there was no community transmission within the college.

B According to Hopper, *professor* performance across America has all been impacted by the pandemic. Before the Pandemic, GCC classes were not required to use Moodle for class, unlike other colleges which required Blackboard or Moodle for attendance keeping and grades. This made adjusting to a new teaching style much more difficult. Before the Pandemic, GCC was 80-90% in person. Today, the numbers are closer to 50%. The federal Covid-19 relief aid from the CARES Act funding has run out, which led to less resources to facilitate new learning initiatives. One focus of the grant work being done for GCC is to invest in professional development of professors and instructional design. Hopper believes in funding professional development and adapting a "share what you learn" knowledge sharing environment for staff. When interviewed about the topic, he said "The cost of doing nothing is pretty high."

B+ Student life. Much criticism on the Niche page is found in student reviews from 2008 to 2014. These criticisms include lack of wifi access and lack of student social events. GCC has risen to meet many of these challenges, as evidenced by the school wifi has improved drastically. The social life of GCC is one of the most improved categories. Mary McEntee, Coordinator of Student Activities, is one force of nature who pours her heart into the student life of GCC. She described her approach to student event planning as, "always, students first, student-initiated and student-led - if a student is interested in having an activity, we will try to make it happen. We try to keep our talent and vendors to our local economy and support our alumni as much as possible. GCC has a very diverse population, we have students that are in their 50's and students who are 16 years old. That means we need to have activities that are engaging and appeal to a variety of audiences. We typically have 150 students in person at on campus events. We've had great success with monthly activities where we collaborate with our GCC Music Department, Gender & Women's Studies, the GCC Dance Department, History Department & local businesses and alumni to draw in the amazing talent we have here in our own backyard." For many students, these activities are nice to drop by and grab a free snack, for others they provide the gateway to relaxed socialization with peers. As McEntee described, students play a large part in the social activities on campus, and for them to get better, students are welcomed to reach out with ideas.

While there are things we can do to make GCC even better in very important categories, we also must take a moment and appreciate the work that has been done to get us this far. Since the school is using this as an advertising point, we as a community can use Niche to share our good experiences and ask questions about the not so great. This newspaper is a space to do just that.

MA Delegates Visit GCC Campus *By Stacy Blackadar*

On February 28th local Massachusetts delegates visited GCC to discuss improvements to the campus GCC intends to make with grant money.

GCC has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) for \$24,321,000.00 to redo the East Building. GCC has other plans for the college beyond the East Building. The short term includes mobile lab training for welding, HVAC, plumbing labs. These solutions are quick-to-market and meet future students where they physically are.

Another focus includes medium-term solutions. These focus on infrastructure fixes in the main building. It's been 11 years since the last renovation and three pipe bursts have caused building damage and disruptions by forcing quick classroom changes and office moves, even as the staff have worked very hard to maintain uninterrupted services for students, it's not an optimal situation.

The long term solution is where the DCAMM grant money is needed. The Allied Health programs have outgrown the current configuration in the East Building. The current space consists of conference rooms being used for storage. The lack of purpose-built space resulted in multiple departments sharing classrooms. Precious in-person learning time is wasted when students in EMS (Emergency Medical Services) courses have to spend part of their class time moving equipment just so the class can use the space. Repurposing parts of the building could fix issues like the lack of adequate ventilation in The Simulation Lab control room. The East Building remodel will accommodate more allied health students and meet community needs.

Feedback from the tour was very positive. Nate McKinnon of the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges stated, "The fact that so many legislators showed up is a testament to the support for the college." Massachusetts Sen. Adam Hinds, D-Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden, shared his perspective, "GCC is very personal to me. I grew up here playing soccer on the field and going to classes here in high school. I know first-hand how central GCC is to our community."

The Interim Assistant Dean of Allied Health Dawn Josefski, whose presentation included a vivid first hand account of the struggles the allied health faculty face, felt she got the point across, "I truly appreciate the commitment all those legislators have to GCC, that was demonstrated by their attendance today. I felt they got a visual understanding of what it's like on a small rural campus that has learned how to make do with not optimal circumstances." The guided tour was organized by Staff Assistant to the President Shannon Larange and executed by GCC Interim President "Rick" Hopper and GCC Director of Grants and Government Relations Keith Bailey. Presentations were made by Josefski, Student Trustee Evan LeBeau, GCC Student Senate President Melissa Kuzmeski, as well as others. Members of the board of trustees were also present. The delegates present were State Sen. Jo Comerford, Hinds, Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs Director - Office of Sen. Anne Gobi Lucas McDiarmid, State Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa, Rep. Paul Mark, Rep. Natalie Blais, Rep. Daniel Carey, Rep. Mindy Domb, and Rep. Susannah Whipps. If any of these delegates represent you, let them know how important GCC is to you.



Photos courtesy of GCC Director of Communications and Marketing Daniel Desrochers

Help!

Patink has gotten goop in his eye! Match him to the saline and save his sight!

At GCC, we help each other out as a community. That may be as simple as a hello, or in this case rescuing Patink's baby blues from the dangerous goop.



Ouch!



You Got It!!!



Nope!

Prometheus Press history

"A student newspaper, Prometheus, was formed. The name was suggested by one of the College's first foreign students, Norman Hall of Brampton, Canada. The name was taken from [Percy Bysshe] Shelley's poem 'Prometheus Unbound.' Shelley's words inspired the general philosophy of the paper:

He gave man speech,
And speech created thought,
Which is the measure of the universe. "

-p. 27 of the book, Excellence and Opportunity: The Story of Greenfield Community College 1962-1987, by Arthur W. Shaw.

Send poems, comics, or join our club!

PrometheusPress@stuemail.gcc.mass.edu

Date	Time	Event	Location	Description
Tuesday March 22	11:30am-1:30pm	Manicures & Boba Tea	C216 Student Activities	Stop by Student Activities for conversation & company—watch a movie, drink boba tea and get a free manicure! RSVP to reserve a 15-minute time slot for a mini manicure.
Monday March 28	11:00am-1:00pm	BIPOC Women-Owned Earth Week Kick-Off	Outdoor Learning Lab	Kick off Earth Week 2022 by celebrating BIPOC and women-owned businesses! Featuring plant-based tie dye with Resilient Community Arts, waffle cone s'mores by Erving Station and Jamaican Jewelz food truck.
Wednesday, March 30	11am - 1:00pm	BIPOC Women-Owned Earth Week Wednesday	Outdoor Learning Lab	Ginger Love Cafe Filipino Food Truck Resilient Community Arts Printing on T-shirts
Tues. 4/26/22 Thurs. 4/28/22	12:30 PM	GCC Music Department "Beatles & Radiohead Ensemble"	Core Bldg. Lawn	

GCC Celebrates Earth Week March 28th - April 1st